

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-7 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 5 are amended, and claim 4 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. No new matter is added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Formal Matters

The Office Action objects to claim 5 as lacking antecedent basis. Claim 5 is amended to obviate the objection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

II. Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Gelbart (U.S. Patent No. 6,471,335); rejects claims 1 and 3-4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Scheffelin (U.S. Patent No. 6,464,333); rejects claims 1-2 and 6-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kawase (U.S. Patent No. 6,502,922); rejects claims 3-4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawase in view of Scheffelin.

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Specifically, Applicants assert that Gelbart, Sheffelin and Kawase, either individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest an ink jet printer including at least a connector that is provided adjacent to the ink jet head on the plate to connect tubes to each other and/or to connect cables to each other, wherein the tubes are for supplying the ink to the ink jet head and the cables are for sending a signal to the ink jet head, as recited in independent claim 1.

In stark contrast, Gelbart, in col. 4, lines 30-32, discloses an inkjet printer with an electrical signal connection ribbon through which the electrical functioning of the pre-registered cartridge subassembly is controlled. Gelbart, however, fails to disclose an ink jet printer including at least a connector to connect tubes to each other and/or to connect cables

to each other, wherein the tubes are for supplying the ink to the ink jet head and the cables are for sending a signal to the ink jet head, as recited in claim 1.

Scheffelin, in col. 6, lines 51-56, merely discloses an inkjet printhead with an electrical circuit to supply power, ground and data among and between printhead dies and electronic controller. Scheffelin, however, fails to disclose an ink jet printer including at least a connector to connect tubes to each other and/or to connect cables to each other, wherein the tubes are for supplying the ink to the ink jet head and the cables are for sending a signal to the ink jet head, as recited in claim 1.

Kawase also fails to disclose or suggest the above feature, and therefore, fails to make up for the deficiencies of Gelbart and Scheffelin et al.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that Gelbart, Scheffelin and Kawase, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest an ink jet printer including at least a connector to connect tubes to each other and/or to connect cables to each other, wherein the tubes are for supplying the ink to the ink jet head and the cables are for sending a signal to the ink jet head, as recited in claim 1.

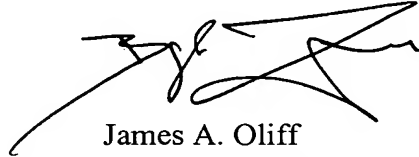
III. Conclusion

In accordance with the above remarks, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 defines patentable subject matter. Claims 2-3 and 6-7 depend from independent claim 1 and therefore, also define patentable subject matter, as well as for the additional features they recite. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the §102(b) and §103(a) rejections.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-3 and 5-7 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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